(b) if so, whether Government propose to issue directions for financing such purchases specially in view of great emphasis on social forestry and need for bringing waste land under cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Banks provide credit assistance for purchase of virgin lands/neglected estates provided such purchase forms part of an integrated scheme covering both acquisition of lands/estate and development thereof. However, purchase of land *per se* which only involves transfer of land from one individual to another individual is not considered as one falling within the definition of productive purpose and is therefore not eligible for credit assistance from banks.

Apex Body Banks

1626. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to form an apex body for banks on the lines of Steel Authority of India Limited; and

(b) if so, what are the functions proposed to be assigned to this body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in Export of Textile products to South East Asia

1627. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of textile products to South East Asia has been going down during the past few years; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Utilisation of Service of Private selling agents by NTC

1628. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the National Textile Corporation is not utilising the services of private selling agents for institutional sales; and

(b) if so, whether it is not affecting the sales and whether Government propose to issue directions to the Corporation to make use of private selling agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) National Textile Corporation has not been utilising the services of private selling agents for its institutional sales. The institutional sales have not been affected by non-utilisation of the services of private selling agents. The institutional sales were worth Rs. 15.36 crores during the period 1985-86 (April 85 to January 86) as compared to Rs. 4.12 crores during the year 1984-85.

Release of goods on the basis of forged bank guarantees

1629. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain cases have come to the notice of Government wherein certain import firms got their goods released from the Central Warehousing Godown after presenting forged bank guarantees:

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the action taken by Government against the erring firms and the officials involved in the matter; and

(c) what measures Government have taken to, plug the loopholes, if any, in the procedure to avoid recurrence of such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) In a case relating to the import of components of sports shoes in November, 1985, M/s. Dimple Industrial Corporation, Pvt. Ltd. Nangloi, New Delhi sought clearance of the goods free of duty against an alleged recommendatory letter from the Office of the Joint Chief Controller of Imports & Exports regarding issue of an advance licence and produced two bank guarantees for amounts of Rs. 6 lakhs and Rs. 4 lakhs respectively purported to have been issued by the Janpath branch of Canara Bank. After the clearance of the cargo on suspicion, these documents were verified with the issuing authorities and found to be forged.

A formal Show-cause Notice has been issued to the firm for action under the customs and other allied laws. In the meantime, the duty amount of Rs. 549533.60 on the goods has since been realised from the firm.

The case relating to forgery has been referred to the CBI for investigation and suitable action against the firm.

(c) Instructions already exist for verification of such Bank Guarantees.

ILO report regarding industrial accidents

1630. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent ILO report has pointed out that while the labour force in developing countries has increased during the last two decades at the rate of 2 to 3 per cent per year, the industrial accidents increased by 5.3 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to a recent report of the Central Labour Institute, Bombay, India figures amongst the countries having highest rates of industrial accidents and over the last 30 years about 36,000 workers were killed and over 6.4 million injured in such accidents in India; and

(c) if so, what specific measures are being taken to effectively tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected.

Variance in the Interpretation of Excise duty

1631. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attentions has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the 'Times of India' of the 23rd February, 1986 captioned 'No precise definition of Excise Duty';

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) in how many cases the concerned companies have gone to courts due to variance in interpretation of the excise duty provisions by excise authorities in different States; and

(d) what is the amount of excise dues which are still outstanding and how much of these dues are locked up in court cases and how much amount is involved in cases referred to in part (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item relates to determination of assessable value and classification of trucks for the purpose of concessional duty. On the first issue, there was divergence in the assessment practice between two Collectorates, which has since been set right. Uniformity has been brought